FEB 2 3 1999

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Assistant Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date of Signature and Deposit: February 18, 1999

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mark R. McCormick

Date: February 18, 1999

Serial No.: 08/724,631

Examiner: G. Kunz

Bennett

Filed: October 1, 1996

Group Art Unit: 1211

For: METHOD FOR PRECIPITATING

File No.: 700399.90053

NUCLEIC ACID WITH VISIBLE

CARRIER

RECEIVED

RESPONSE

MAR 1 1999

Assistant Commissioner For Patents Washington DC 20231

MAINIA-GUANCIAL'A SERVICE CENTEP

Dear Sir:

In response to an Office Action mailed November 18, 1998, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

In the Cross-Reference to Related Applications, page 1, line 8, please delete "Not applicable." and insert therefor -This application claims the benefit of prior provisional patent application number 60/004,668, filed October 2, 1995.

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 8, 13 and 18 as follows:

8. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the indicator molecule [comprises a primary] and the carrier molecule are coupled via an amine [group] linkage.